

engaged in this process. So the gentleman has made a very good point.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my colleagues that I have seen this Congress, when I was in the State legislature, go to great extents for far less in questioning what is happening right now. This is not speculation; these are the lives of CIA operatives, the very lives that are in countries where Americans and those who help Americans are not applauded. On behalf of not only the safety, but the sovereignty of this country, I think the gentleman's letter is well within order. I brought about questions in my own heart and mind when I did not hear the President and others who were in the White House saying listen, independent counsel? That is fine. Because we want the individual who leaked the information to be found, prosecuted, what have you. Fired is not good enough for me personally. I think the individuals who have leaked this information knowingly and willingly, revenge, political revenge, need to be punished and prosecuted. And the only way we are going to get to that, I believe, is through an independent counsel. So I think the gentleman's letter is well within order. And Mr. Rove, as far as I am concerned, politics has nothing to do, or should not have anything to do with it. Thus, as red-blooded Americans voicing our opinion and informing the American people.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, if I could say to the gentlewoman from Texas and the gentleman from Florida, the truth ultimately always comes out. I do not know why so many people hide, run for cover, obfuscate, manipulate, spin, but in the end, it may take a little longer and they may be able to put it off, they may be able to do it long enough to get out of town, but in the end, there are too many people of conscience and talent that are looking at these same situations that we have to deal with in our working lives. And you are not going to get very far, not in today's global technologically advanced society. It is going to come out. It always does. It never fails. There will be books upon books upon investigation upon articles, and they just will not come forward and make a complete candid discussion. The American people are not going to be fooled.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for all of his contributions here tonight and to be here this time of night sharing with the American people, and the gentleman is to be commended.

I just wanted to say that the gentlewoman did hit on the donors conference that is happening on October 23. I think this Congress should hold back on the \$87 billion. If we give \$87 billion, then why are we having a donors conference? We went from \$12 billion, saying that the donors from other places are down to \$6 billion. Now there is some question about \$3 billion.

I am here tonight definitely on behalf of the American people of being able to share with them what they need to know. But \$87 billion as it relates to Florida means \$4.5 billion that we will not receive, which could equate to \$672.7 billion in school construction. The governor down there is hollering about we need more money for schools. Mr. Speaker, 6,062 in new affordable housing units that could create 4,839 jobs and also 769.7 million in local and State roads and bridges that could create 27,099 jobs; 8,897 new firefighters and health care coverage for 434,452 people.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that both of my colleagues are here tonight.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just as the gentleman closes and the time is ending, let us put a face on this. We are standing here because we are trying to save lives of the young men and women on the front lines in Iraq.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BERKLEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of flight delays.

Ms. ESHOO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of personal reasons.

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of a death in the family.

Ms. LOFGREN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of personal reasons.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of personal business.

Ms. WOOLSEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for September 23, October 7 and 8 on account of medical reasons.

Mrs. BONO (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness in the family.

Mr. CASTLE (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending a CODEL in Iraq.

Mr. FOLEY (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending to family business.

Mr. HAYWORTH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. PUTNAM (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of medical reasons.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending a CODEL in Iraq.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ALLEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MARKEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIERNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LYNCH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OBEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HENSARLING) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HENSARLING, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FEENEY, for 5 minutes, today and October 8.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today and October 8.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RANGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1642. An act to extend the duration of the immigrant investor regional center pilot program for 5 additional years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on October 2, 2003, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1925. To reauthorize programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.